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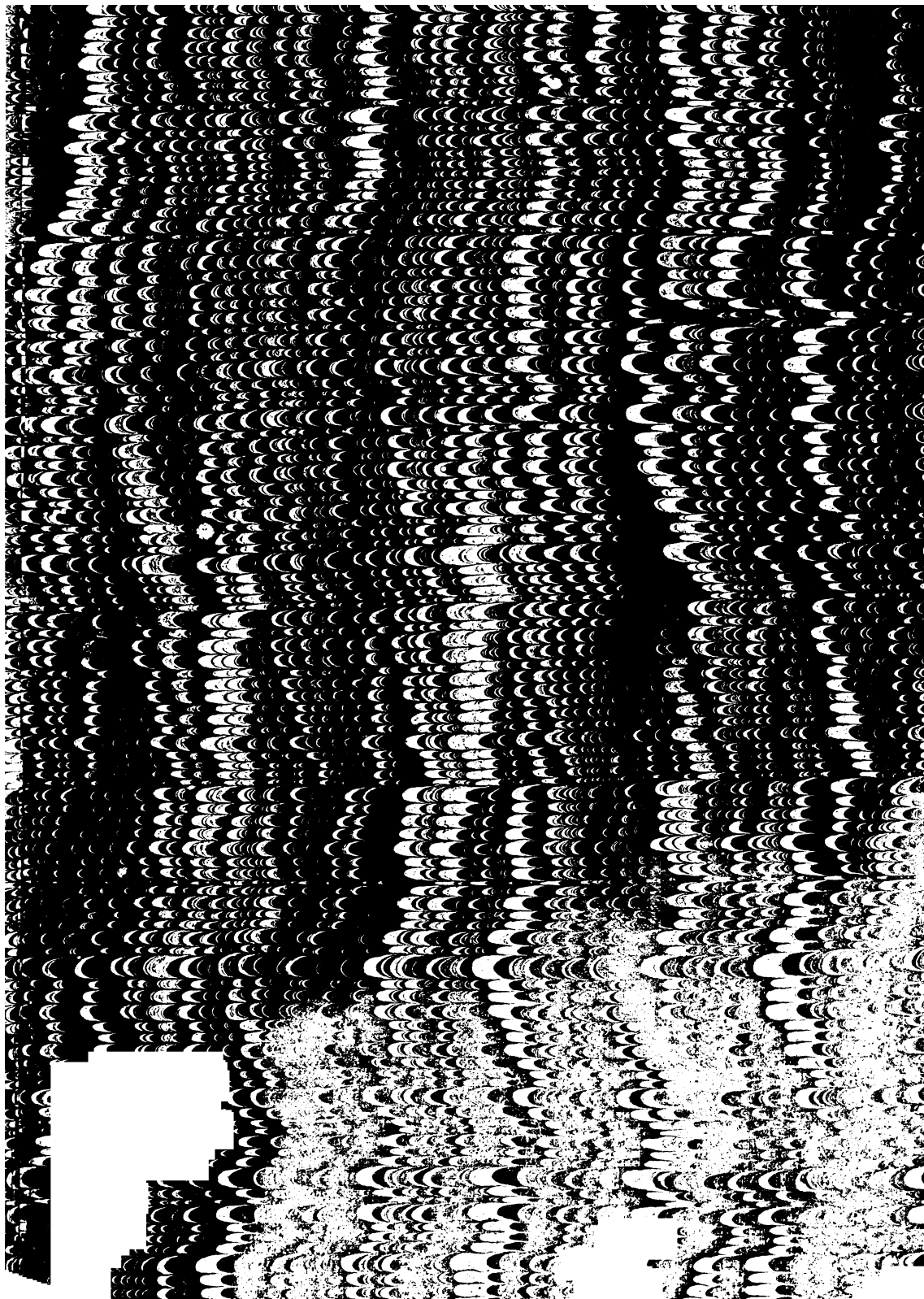
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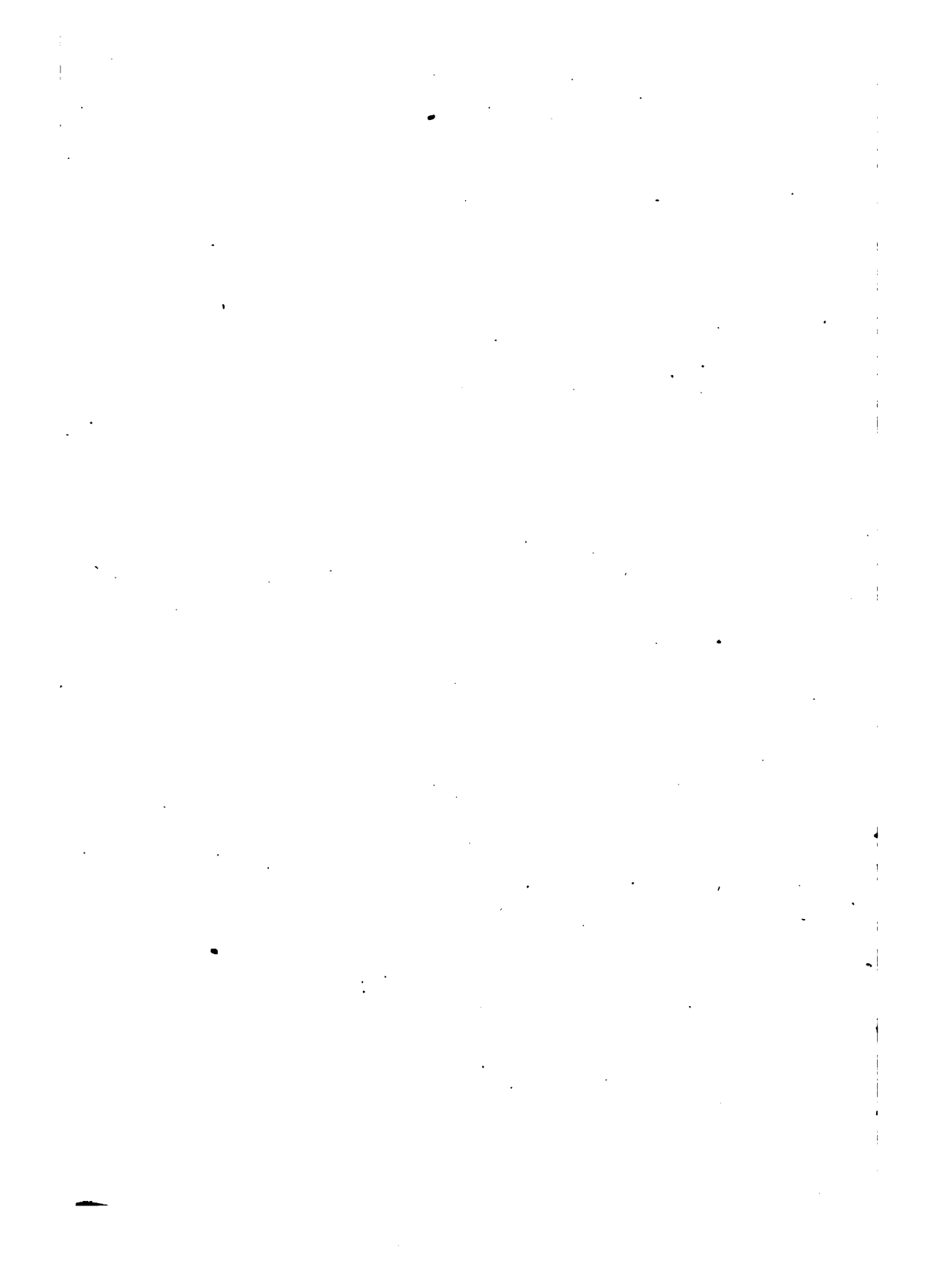
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# ACCOUNT

OF A

## MEMORIAL PRESENTED TO HIS MAJESTY

BY

CAPTAIN PEDRO FERNANDEZ DE QUIR,

*Queiros*

CONCERNING THE POPULATION AND DISCOVERY OF THE FOURTH  
PART OF THE WORLD,

AUSTRALIA THE UNKNOWN,

ITS GREAT RICHES AND FERTILITY, DISCOVERED BY THE SAME  
CAPTAIN.

WITH LICENCE OF THE ROYAL COUNCIL OF PAMPELUNA,  
PRINTED BY CHARLES DE LABAYEN, ANNO 1610.

*From the Spanish.*

WITH AN INTRODUCTORY NOTICE

BY

W. A. DUNCAN, ESQ.

---

SYDNEY: THOMAS RICHARDS, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1874.





Vignaud  
3-11-27

## NOTICE BY THE TRANSLATOR.

THE work of which the following is a translation is a Spanish pamphlet of eight quarto pages, and is of such extreme rarity that a copy of it is marked at the enormous price of £42 in a recent London catalogue, at which price it was actually sold. It does not appear to have been previously translated.

The author, Pedro Fernandez de Quir, is usually quoted by the Spanish name of De Quiros\* and in the Biographical Dictionaries he is said to have been a native of Spain. From the way in which he spells his name, and from the foreign idiom in which his Spanish is written, I strongly incline to the opinion that he was a native of Portugal. The writer of a very interesting life of De Quir in the *Biographie Universelle* (Tome xxxvi) stoutly maintains his Spanish origin, but Nicholas Antonio, the Spanish author of the *Bibliotheca Hispana*, disclaims for his country the honor of having given birth to this great navigator, and styles him, "*Lusitanus; Eborensis, ut aiunt Lusitani*," (a Portuguese, a native of Evora, as the Portuguese say). Be this as it may, the whole of his discoveries were made in the service of Spain, like those of Columbus, to whom he must be placed second only in rank as a discoverer.

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\* Pronounced "*Keeros*."

It has long been a disputed question whether De Quir was or was not, as he believed himself to be, the discoverer of the Australian Continent. Putting aside facts which will be alluded to further on, and which seem conclusive on the subject, a perusal of the following memorial, which appears to be a *resumé* of eight other memorials presented to Philip III, although it in no way detracts from De Quir's fame, goes far, when compared with the statement of his second in command, De Torres, to decide the question against his claim. De Quir states that all the islands he discovered were within the tropics, although he expresses the opinion, founded on ill-understood statements of the natives, that some of them extended southward 90°. Ulloa, indeed, basing his statement on the authority of Diego de Cordovo, says that De Quiros discovered a large island in 28° south latitude; and, if this could be relied upon, he must have discovered the Australian Continent, which is the only large territory so situated. This, however, would seem to contradict the minute account of their voyage given by De Torres, who certainly saw its most northern point, when he passed through the strait which now bears his name; and who states that he sailed considerably westward from the *Australia del Espiritu Santo* of De Quir to reach that strait. Moreover, De Quir's description of the islands discovered by him, and their inhabitants, though applicable to Tahiti, the New Hebrides, and other South Sea Islands, is, for the most part, inapplicable to the Australian Continent.

The mode of calculating the longitude was at that time very uncertain—neither De Quir nor De Torres ever allude to it—hence it is difficult to follow their exact route, but I believe the following account will be found substantially correct.

Biographers differ as to the earlier naval services of De Quir, but, without dwelling on uncertainties, his historical career began in 1595, when he joined the second expedition of Mendaña as first pilot. The friend and companion of this commander, having his entire confidence, Mendaña confided to De Quir the destinies of the expedition. De Quir proved himself worthy of the choice. They discovered the island of Vera Cruz, and the Marquesas, and after the death of Mendaña, De Quir, by his firmness, maintained discipline among the discouraged crew; he inspired his seamen with the ardour which triumphs over obstacles; and with crazy vessels, having famine on board, and navigating in seas little known, he succeeded in taking back to Manila the miserable remains of his fleet. From thence he embarked for Acapulco, and from Mexico he proceeded to Peru, where, in two memorials, he addressed to the Viceroy de Velasco a request that he might be furnished with a new fleet to enable him to pursue the discoveries begun by Mendaña. He seems to have been most strongly impressed with the idea of an Australian continent, during his former voyage, and he used very strong arguments to convince De Velasco of its existence. But the Viceroy considered the demand beyond his authority. He, therefore, advised De Quir to proceed to Madrid,

and furnished him with letters to Philip III, strongly sustaining his projects. The King received him well, but appears to have done little for him in the way of substantial aid. He, however, ordered him to be furnished with two ships, and invested him with full power to prosecute his discoveries. De Quir accordingly returned to Peru, had two ships and a corvette fitted out with everything necessary, and with Luys de Vaez de Torres as "Admiral" or "the other Captain," as he variously styles him, he sailed from Callao on the 21st December, 1605. He steered W.S.W. for about 800 leagues without finding any land. Altering his course to W.N.W., on the 26th January, 1606, he saw a small island (La Encarnacion) in latitude  $25^{\circ}$  S., and about 1,000 Spanish leagues from Peru. From thence steering W. by N., on the 29th January, he discovered an island (San Juan Bautista) in latitude  $24^{\circ}$ , about 10 leagues in circuit. On the 4th February he discovered in  $21^{\circ} 20'$  an island (Santelmo) which appeared to be about 30 leagues in circuit. On the 5th four similar islands were discovered, which he named Les 4 Coronados. Sailing W.N.W. from these to a distance of four leagues, he discovered another island, which he called S. Miguel; a little farther on a similar island, which he called S. Pablo.\*

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\*The Spanish discoverers who, provokingly, hardly ever mention the native names of the islands discovered by them, usually gave to each the name of the Saint on whose feast the discovery was made. The Dutch and English who followed them, ignore both the original names and the calendar, but confer on the islands or groups the names of their patrons, Van Diemen, Lord Howe, or Lord Sandwich; or with worse taste, they attach to places that they did not discover old names with a "new" qualification. Thus we have New Holland, New Zealand, New South Wales, New Caledonia, New Hebrides, *usque ad nauseam*. Cannot this even yet be reformed?

Altering his course to N.W. he saw, on Feb. 9th, in latitude  $18^{\circ} 40'$  an island to the eastward, to which he gave the name Santa Polonia, and on the 10th he discovered the island of Tahiti, to which he gave the name of Sagittaria. On the 14th, 15th, and 21st February other islands were discovered. On the 2nd March he discovered in latitude  $10^{\circ}$  S. an island to which, from the beauty of its inhabitants, he gave the name of Gente Hermosa. In this parallel he sailed for thirty-two days, and saw many signs of land.

On the 7th April he discovered an island named Taumaco. Here they anchored on the 9th, and were most hospitably received by the natives; but in return for this hospitality De Quir committed the grievous error of taking forcibly on board four natives to act as interpreters. Upon this the natives rose with indignation and attacked their invaders, but they were soon quieted by the big guns of the ships, and might, as usual, took the place of right. De Quir learnt from Tumai, the chief of this island, the names and situations of sixty islands; that a vast continent existed nearer the equator, and that, farther south, he would find an immense fertile inhabited country, named Manicolo. Sailing from Taumaco on the 16th and steering towards the south, he, on the 21st, discovered the island of Tucopia (New Hebrides). Not finding good anchorage here, he left Tucopia on the 22nd, and sailing towards the south discovered an island in latitude  $14\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  S. to which he gave the name of Nuestra Señora de la Luz.

On this island was a volcano. Other islands were discovered in sight of this last, to which De Quir gave the names of El Vergel, Las Lagrimas de S. Pedro, Las Portales de Belen, El Pilar de Zaragoza, San Raymundo, and Santa Maria. At this last the natives showed much hospitality to the Spaniards, and it was De Quir's intention to requite them honorably, but he commenced his good work by taking two chiefs on board his ship, by force, to feed and clothe them. It is not surprising that his intentions were misunderstood, and that a few arrows were shot at one of the boats on the following day.

Leaving Santa Maria they proceeded southward in search of the great southern land, and on the 30th April they believed it to be in sight. Before them was a large open bay, and a "coast without end." The bay was examined by De Torres on the following day, and pronounced to be good, and De Quir entered it on the 2nd May, which, being the feast of SS. Philip and James, it was named, accordingly, San Felipe y Santiago. The port, far within the bay, was named Vera Cruz, and the territory was named Australia\* del Espiritu Santo. The port was situated between two rivers, as large as the Guadalquivir, one of which he named the Jordan, and the other the Salvador. A full description of the bay and surrounding country is given in the following memorial. De Quir sojourned a month here and took formal possession of the territory in the name of Philip III, believing that it would prove an excellent site for a Spanish Colony.

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\* De Quir always spells it "Austrialia." I have used the ordinary orthography in the translation.

He planned a city, which he called the New Jerusalem, nominated the Alcades and Corregidors, and erected a temporary church. The natives showed no hostility at first; they made presents of fruits to the Spaniards, but they were evidently anxious that they should as soon as possible return to their ships. A native chief marked out a boundary line, and made signs that the Spaniards should not cross it. De Torres, to show his contempt for this very reasonable proposal, immediately crossed the line, when some of the natives shot arrows at the Spaniards, who in return fired their muskets, and several natives, including the chief, were killed. This event cut off all communication with the natives, notwithstanding many attempts of De Quir to re-establish peace. The natives were constantly lying in wait to attack the Spaniards and revenge their chief. This wanton misconduct on the part of De Torres, of which he says nothing whatever in his own account, led to the breaking up of the settlement. The ship's stores were fast diminishing; the enmity of the natives made it impossible to obtain new supplies; the crews were sick and mutinous; the vessels were out of order, and a perpetual conflict of opinion had existed between the two captains, which led to their ultimate separation. Under these unfavourable circumstances De Quir determined to return to Mexico, while De Torres, pursuing a westward course, passed through the strait which bears his name, discovered several islands and committed outrages on the inhabitants, and ultimately reached the Philippines, whence he wrote

an account of his discoveries, of which I have made considerable use, as well as of the first and second memorials of De Quir.

De Quir reached Mexico on the 3rd October, 1606, nine months after his departure from Callao. Impressed with a just idea of the importance of his discoveries, he proceeded to Madrid to solicit the means of establishing a Colony in the island of Espiritu Santo, but it was in vain that he painted the beauty and fertility of the land, the soft manners of its inhabitants, and the proper way to treat them,—in vain he besought his King, for the love of God, not to permit such labours, such watchings, so noble a perseverance, to be fruitless; the feeble descendant of Charles V was deaf to his entreaties, or, if he obtained some assistance, it appears to have been wholly disproportioned to the greatness of his enterprise. After having consumed several years in attempts to obtain the means of carrying out his great project, he resolved to return to Lima, and, with what means he had been able to collect, attempt a new voyage; but he never reached that city—he died at Panama in 1614. De Quir was the last of the great Spanish discoverers, and closed, with honor to himself, if not to that nation, the great work begun by Columbus.

As to the long agitated question—"Who was the discoverer of the Australian continent?" it is now certain that this honor belongs neither to De Quir nor De Torres; nor is there any evidence that it belongs to the Dutch, who afterwards surveyed so large a portion



of the coast. That the Portuguese navigators had at a much earlier period seen the greater part of the western coast, a large portion of the eastern coast, and knew the strait afterwards passed by De Torres, may now be regarded as certain, although that nation made no claim, at the time, for reasons which can easily be conjectured\*, to the honor of the discovery. The first claimant on record is the Sieur de Gonneville, a Frenchman, who sailed from Harfleur, in 1503, on a voyage to the South Seas; and who, after doubling the Cape of Good Hope, was assailed by a tempest, which drove him on an unknown land, in which he received a most hospitable reception from the inhabitants, and whence, after a stay of six months, he returned to France, taking with him the King of the country and other natives, one of whom had a grandson who became a priest, and published, in 1663, a "*Mémoire touchant l'Etablissement d'une Mission Chrétienne dans la Terre Australe.*" Gonneville, on his return home, was attacked by a corsair, and plundered of everything he had, so that his journals were entirely lost. On arriving in France he made a declaration to the Admiralty, dated July the 19th, 1505, and signed by the principal officers of the ship. It seems clear, however, from his description of the natives, that it could not be the Australian continent that he described, as in no part of it were the natives so far advanced in civilization as those found in his *Terre Australe*, which is now generally supposed to have been the island of Madagascar.

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\* It was supposed to lie within the Spanish boundary, as defined in the famous bull of Alexander VI.

A claim has been made to the discovery in favour of the celebrated Magalhaens, who made a voyage round the world in 1520; but recent researches, made at the instance of R. H. Major, Esq., F.S.A., have disproved that claim, though it is probable that Magalhaens may have seen New Guinea. That the Australian continent had been seen by the Portuguese before the middle of the sixteenth century is, however, certain from the following facts:—"There exist six maps, four of them in England and two in France, on which, immediately below Java, is drawn a large country stretching southward to the very verge of the maps."\*. The earliest of these is a large chart of the world, on a plane scale, 8 feet 2 inches by 3 feet 10 inches, highly ornamented with figures, and with the names mostly in French. It was made probably for the son of Francis I, but has passed through many hands, and is now in the British Museum. The second map, in point of date, is contained in an atlas drawn at Dieppe, between 1539 and 1547. The third and fourth of these maps, which were drawn for our Henry VIII, are contained in one volume, which is in the British Museum. One of them has the names in English, and has the advantage of having the latitudes and longitudes marked, which are wanting in the others. The fifth map in date is described as "*Mappe-monde, peinte sur parchemin, par ordre de Henry II, Roi de France.*" The sixth is in a Portolano at the Dépôt de la Guerre, Paris, and was drawn in 1555, by Guillaume

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\* Major's "Introduction to Early Voyages to Terra Australis." Published by the Hakluyt Society.

le Testu, who is styled by André Thevet as "*renommé pilote et singulier navigateur.*" All six maps are manifestly copies of the same original, which must have been of Portuguese origin.

Now, in all these six maps a large country is laid down nearly in the shape and extent of the Australian continent, under the designation of "Jave la Grande" in the French maps, and "The Londe of Java" in the English map. The real Java is, in this map, called "The lytil Java," and in the French maps simply "Jave." The great Java shows Cape York a little blunted at the point. The future Cape Howe is shown, but enormously exaggerated in size. Strange to add, Cook's Bay of Inlets is called B. Perdue; his Bay of Isles had already been named "B. de beaucoup d'Isles" two centuries before; the place where the "Endeavour" afterwards struck is named "Coste dangereuse"; and still more singular the future Botany Bay had received the name of "Côte des Herbages" at least before the year 1542. The west coast does not seem to have been discovered beyond the 35th parallel, but its outline is tolerably accurate, so far as it goes. The east coast is also tolerably exact as far as that parallel, but is utterly wrong in its southern part, which is extended both eastward and southward very far beyond the truth.

The real or "little" Java is placed in its proper latitude on the only map which contains the parallels, and is correctly shown on its northern side; but instead of extending southwards about one degree, as it really does,

it is made to descend to about the 15th parallel, the numerous small islands, and probably also New Guinea, having been supposed to form a continuation of Java. This is shown by a hazy, indefinite line without names on the south and west, quite different from that so distinctly described on the north. In this way it comes to be divided from the great Java only by a strait, not only at Cape York but all along the hazy line mentioned. The islands in the strait are shown as well as the gulf, but the latter is on a rather diminished scale. The west coast, as stated, is given with some approach to accuracy as far south as the 35th parallel, and is afterwards continued in a straight, faint, meaningless line, and without any names, to the verge of the map. The latitude on the east coast is extended both northward and southward beyond the truth. With respect to the longitude—Cape York, which is on the 160° from Ferro, is placed, on the Franco-Portuguese map, on the 157°. The extreme western portion of the continent is on the 131° from Ferro; on the map of 1542 it is on the 127°. The extreme eastern portion of our continent—say Cape Byron—is on the 171°; the map of 1542, at the latitude of Cape Byron gives the longitude as 180°.

It is impossible to look at these maps, with all their inaccuracies, and to doubt for a moment that the northern half of the Australian continent had been seen and described before the year 1542, and, most probably a considerable time before these Franco-Portuguese maps were copied for the Kings of France and England.

How the original Portuguese map, from which those referred to have been copied, found its way to France it is impossible now to say. M. Barbié du Bocage conjectures that it was among the secret papers carried off by Don Miguel de Sylva in 1542, for which he was outlawed and his brother imprisoned; and this, by no means improbable conjecture, if it could be confirmed, would fully account for its appearance in France. I call the maps Franco-Portuguese, because while there is no evidence that the French made any voyages in the South Seas at this time, the maps themselves give evidence of their Portuguese origin. The names are for the most part French, but we have among them C. de Fremoso, Yebes, Quabe Segmesce, C. de Grao, Baya Bassa, T. Ennegade, and several others clearly indicating a Portuguese origin. In any case it is certain that before the year 1542, Australia was discovered and coasted on the east and west, from the present Cape York and Gulf of Carpentaria, as far as the 35th parallel of south latitude, and it is most probable that it was discovered by the Portuguese between 1511 and 1529.

There are other evidences in the compilation of Mr. Major already cited, that Australia was discovered in the 16th century. In Dalrymple's *Voyages in the South Pacific Ocean*, Juan Fernandez is said to have discovered the Southern Continent. In an edition of Ortelius, 1587, there is a map showing New Guinea as an island separated by a strait from Terra Australis, and containing the words "*Hanc continentem Australem nonnulli*

Magellanicam regionem, ab ejus inventore nuncupant." Various editions of Mercator, about the same date, give similar indications as those on the map of Ortelius. In the map to illustrate the voyages of Drake and Cavendish (*temp.* Q. Elizabeth), New Guinea is made an island, while the Terra Australis, which is separated from it, has an outline remarkably similar to that of the Gulf of Carpentaria.

In Cornelius Wytfliet's geographical work (Louvain, 1598), the "Australis Terra" is said to be "the most southern of all lands, and is separated from New Guinea by a narrow strait." He adds—that "it is maintained by some to be of so great an extent that if it were thoroughly explored it would be regarded as a fifth part of the world."

It seems therefore certain that De Quir was not the discoverer of the real continent; that his Australia del Espiritu Santo is the largest island of the group now called the New Hebrides, and that the real Australian continent had been discovered more than half a century before his time, although, for reasons of State, its discovery was kept as far as possible secret.

It is nevertheless true that the discoveries of De Quir led to the subsequent explorations of the Dutch, of Bougainville, and Cook, and that, in the words of Dalrymple—"The discovery of the Southern Continent, *whenever* and by *whomsoever* it may be completely effected, is, in *justice*, due to this immortal name."

To this opinion I think every candid person will subscribe who follows him in his route, whether as given by himself in his first and second memorials, or by De Torres in his relation ;—by every one who considers his fruitless perseverance for years at a worthless Court, seeking for the means of completing his discoveries ; and his determination at all hazards to pursue them, when, probably heart-broken with disappointment, his career was arrested by a premature death.





[TRANSLATION.]

SIRE,

I, Captain Pedro Fernandez de Quir, say that with this are eight memorials that I have presented to your Majesty, pointing out what ought to be done to people the land which your Majesty commanded me to discover in Australia the Unknown, without having hitherto received any encouragement, or any answer, or any assurance of despatch, having been fourteen months in this Court, and having been engaged in this cause fourteen years, without pay, being averse to aim at my own profit, without obtaining a judgment of my cause. Amid infinite contradictions I have gone 20,000 leagues by sea and land, and spent all my fortune, injured my person, suffering so many and such terrible hardships that even to myself they seem almost incredible; and all this have I undergone that I might not abandon a work of so much piety and mercy, in the name of which, and for all the love of God I most humbly beg of your Majesty not to permit your servant to be deprived of the fruits of so many and such lengthened labours and watchings, and of such a notable and well-founded perseverance: which fruits I desire and claim with such earnestness, because it will be to the honor and glory of God; the service of your Majesty; and good immeasurable, while the world endures, and after that for eternity.

1. The extent of the lands newly discovered, judging by what I have seen, and by that of which Captain Luys de Vaes de Torres, the Admiral of my charge, with good reason informed your Majesty, is in length as great as the whole of Europe and as far as the Caspian Sea and Persia, with all the isles of the Mediterranean and the ocean within that boundary, including England and Ireland. In this place is hidden a fourth part of the whole globe; it is so capacious that it might contain the whole of the kingdoms and provinces at present subject to your Majesty, and as many more; and it is not in the neighbourhood of Turks or Moors, or other nations that might be troublesome to new comers. All the islands we saw fall within the Torrid Zone, and of those which touch the equator some may have a latitude of  $90^{\circ}$ , others a little less; and if their extent prove to be as great as it promises, these lands will be antipodes to the greater part of Africa, the whole of Europe, and the half of Asia Major. I would observe that since the lands that I have seen in  $15^{\circ}$  are better than Spain, as presently will be seen, it must be true that those opposite to them in a higher latitude form a terrestrial paradise.

2. The population of those lands is great. They are of various colours, white, yellow, molatas, and black, and mixtures of each. The hair of some is black, straight, and loose; of others it is frizzled and curled, and of others very fair and thin, which differences are indications of great communication and intercourse; for which reason, and because of the goodness of the lands, and because they have no artillery or other fire-arms with which to kill each

other, and because they have no agriculture and no silver mines, and for many other reasons, the population is great. To which it may be added, that they know no arts, greater or less, have neither walls nor strongholds, neither king nor law, but are simply pagans, divided into tribes, little friendly among each other. Their arms are bows, arrows, wooden swords, clubs, spears, and darts, also of wood. The people are partly covered, are clean, lively, and rational, and as grateful as any of which I have had experience: from all which it may be hoped, through the aid of Divine Providence, and by gentle means, that it will be very easy to pacify, and teach, and satisfy them, which are three things very necessary in the beginning; for afterwards they may be conducted in the way to the holiest ends, advancing from great things to small, till they arrive at a knowledge of the highest truths. Their houses are of wood, covered with palm leaves; they use pots of clay; they have nets of various kinds; they work in marble, make pipes, drums, and varnished wooden spoons; they hold oratories and funerals, and have large properties in land, enclosed and palisaded. They use much mother of pearl, and of the shells they make chisels of various sizes, gouges, hooks, and ornaments, and plates to hang from the neck. The islanders have vessels, well built, and sufficient to carry them from one island to another, and they are put together so securely as to indicate the habits of a more polished race. And not less remarkable is their practice of castrating hogs and making capons.

3. The bread that they have is made from three different roots, which are collected in great quantities, which grow

without labour, and appear insipid, but when roasted and baked are agreeable to the taste, wholesome and sustaining for a considerable time. The tubers are of large and middle thickness. The fruits are plentiful; there are very good plantains of six sorts, great quantities of almonds of four sorts, and large strawberries, of extreme sweetness. There are many ground nuts, and oranges, and lemons, that the natives do not eat. There is another extremely large fruit, and others of smaller size but equally good, that we saw and ate. There are many large sugar-canes, and an infinity of palms from which sugar, wine, vinegar, and honey can be obtained, and the dates are very good. The palm trees also produce cocos. When they are green they look like thistles, and have a marrow like cream; when ripe the nuts contain a liquid like milk, thus giving sustenance of meat and drink on sea and land. When old they produce an oil of great value for lighting, and which cures like a balsam. The shells make good cups and bottles. The shell is surrounded by a fibre which is used for heating vessels, and for spinning all sorts of cables, rigging, tackle, and other ropes. The greater part of the leaves are made into sails for small vessels, mats, and coverings for houses, that are framed from the trunks of such as are high and straight, out of which they cut planks, spears, and other descriptions of arms and oars, besides many other articles of ordinary use. And it is to be noted that the fruit of these vine palms is gathered all the year round, and that they require no manure, or cost of any kind in money or time. The garden herbs that we saw are pumpkins, beet of many kinds, purslain, and beans. The flesh used is that

of pigs—tame like ours—hens, capons, partridges, geese, turtles, pigeons, goats (which the other Captain saw), and the natives led us to believe that there were animals which we supposed to be cattle or buffaloes. The fish are numerous; pargos, king fish, skate, soles, salmon, pollocks, savalos, casanes, gold-line, sardines, thornbacks, dove fish, chitas, eels, sword fish, sea pigs, shell fish, gurnet, muscles, shrimps, and other kinds which I cannot remember, but the list of which might be increased by referring to the fishermen attached to the ships. And in addition to what I have written respecting the supply of necessary provisions, many dainties might be added such as pastry, and preserves of many sorts, without going out of the way. And as for sea stores, besides those referred to there is no great scarcity of bacon, jars of lard, nor large pigs which may be exported without vinegar or spices. It is to be remarked that many of these products resemble ours, and that in addition to its indigenous products the country might be made to produce everything grown in Europe.

4. The riches are silver and pearls that I myself saw, and gold that was seen by the other Captain,\* as he states in his narrative, which are the three most valuable products of nature, and are very much the same as ours; mace, pepper, and ginger, that we have both seen; indications of cinnamon, cloves, and other spices; the islands being parallel to the countries which produce these commodities. It is also capable of producing silk, flax, sugar, indigo, good ebony and an infinity of woods, with which

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\* De Torres.

all kinds of ships may be built, and furnished with sails and ropes made from three kinds of fibres, one of which is like our hemp. And from the cocoa-nut oil can be produced a composition which is a substitute for tar, and I have seen a certain resin which the natives themselves prepare for tarring their vessels. There are goats and indications of cows. They have leather of different kinds and tallow, and flesh in abundance, and, as bees were seen, there must be plenty of honey and wax; besides all which riches, it is certain that many others are indicated; and when the situation and disposition of the adjoining territories are taken into account, contending with each other, as it were in rich products, I consider them likely to be more profitable than Peru or New Spain (Mexico), because that, all joined together, they form such a rich country that it would not only sustain itself, but would enrich Spain in such a manner as I have shown, if others would assist in developing it. And if so much can be seen on the margin of the sea, I say, Sire, what ought to be hoped for when the heart of the country with all its greatness, riches, and good things, become ours. It is to be noted that my principal intention was only to search for such a great land as I discovered, and that, because of my infirmities, and other causes, of which I say nothing,\* I was not able to see so much as I desired, nor was it possible to see in one month, the fruits and their quality produced by the whole country in twelve months. Nor are the natives of

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\* No doubt his differences with De Torres and the sickness and mutiny of some of his crew. De Torres was not so considerate for his chief as the latter was for him. *Zr.*

these lands from whom we received information, sufficient judges of our necessities, tastes, desires, and estimation of things, being men who endeavour to pass their lives with the least labour possible, without undergoing the fatigue to which we are accustomed.

5. The comfort and pleasant life in such a land might be increased by the cultivation of its black, rich soil, by the erection of brick houses, by proper clothing, by working the marble quarries, from which sumptuous and elegant edifices could be raised, a land in which there is abundance of timber for all sorts of work ; where there are sites of plains, valleys, ridges, undulations, high mountains, and thickets ; and in which there are murmuring streams and springs ; where might be erected any number of wind-mills, water-mills, sugar-mills, and other water-engines ; salt pits, and sugar plantations. The canes, which grow to five or six palms and under, and the fruit in proportion, are witnesses of the richness of the soil. A slender, hard, and smooth stone makes as good flints as can be had in Madrid. The Bay of SS. Philip and James contains twenty leagues of shore, and is quite limpid and free to enter by day or by night ; it is surrounded by a large population, and at a very great distance is seen by day much smoke, and at night many fires. The port of Vera Cruz is so capacious that it would contain at anchor 1,000 ships. Its bottom is clear, and consists of dark sand. The worm that is so destructive to ships was not seen. Ships may be anchored at any depth up to forty fathoms midway between two rivers as large as the Guadalquivir in Seville, with a bar of

more than two fathoms which frigates and other vessels of moderate size may cross and take in water, which is the most beautiful that I have seen in any part of the world. The coast for three leagues and more consists of black pebbles, small and heavy, very good for ships' ballast. The coast contains neither ruins nor rocks; the herbs on its banks are green; you hear not the sound of the tide, and as the trees are straight and not torn, I conclude that there are no great tempests in that land. Moreover, this port, besides being so airy and pleasant, has another great excellency for recreation,—that from the break of dawn you hear a very great harmony of warbling birds, some having the appearance of nightingales, blackbirds, larks, goldfinches, and an infinity of swallows, parroquets, and a coloured parrot that is seen, besides a great many other birds of different kinds; the locusts and crickets shriek; every morning and evening the sweetest smells are enjoyed from many kinds of flowers, among which are orange and lemon blossoms; and I consider that all these and other good effects are due to the excellence and regularity of the climate. In the neighbourhood of this port and bay are many excellent islands, seven of which may be specially mentioned which contain a dozen leagues, and one of them which contains fifty, and is about twelve leagues distant, is very fertile and populous; and in conclusion, Sire, I say that in that bay and port, in  $15\frac{1}{3}^{\circ}$  of south latitude, a large and populous city may be built; that the people who inhabit it may readily enjoy all riches and conveniences, which my small ability does not enable me to show. But time will show that these lands will bear comparison with



the provinces of Chile, Peru, Panama, Nicaragua, Guatemala, New Spain (Mexico), Terenate, and the Philippines, of all which lands your Majesty is Lord; and that if your Majesty were Lord of those which I offer you, they would be found to be as important as those referred to, and to have this advantage, that they are in the way of a profitable and immense traffic with China and Japan, and many other provinces of that coast of Asia with its islands, as I am prepared to show in an assembly of mathematicians; and not to enlarge further, that they are sufficient to accommodate and sustain 200,000 Spaniards. In conclusion, he will be Lord of the World who shall unite these countries in one with Spain for its centre; a point worthy of being well noted.

6. The temperature and purity of the air, Sire, are such as must be evident from all that I have said; and from the fact that all our people, being strangers, none of them fell sick from ordinary labour, sweat, and wetting, or by drinking water, while fasting, or by eating all that the earth produces, or by the dew, moon, and sun, which is not very hot during the day, and the temperature falls considerably by the middle of the night, and is quite bearable with linen clothes; and as the aborigines are commonly corpulent, and of great strength, and some of them are very old, and as they live in houses built on the ground, this also is an indication of great healthiness, for if the ground were unhealthy they would raise them above the level of the soil as they do in the Philippines and other parts that I have seen. Moreover, fish and meat remain sound to be salted for two or more

days ; and with that, the fruits that we used there are most wholesome, as may be seen in two that I still possess here, which were gathered from the trees out of season. Nor did we see any sands, nor any kind of thistles or thorny trees, nor trees whose roots appear above the ground, nor plains liable to be flooded, nor morasses, nor snow on the high mountains, nor crocodiles in the rivers, nor poisonous reptiles on the mountains, nor white ants, nor those that destroy fruit, nor worms, nor ticks, nor mosquitos, an excellency above all others for our purpose, and so much to be esteemed, if we consider that many of the Indian Islands are uninhabitable from these insects, and in others they suffer greatly from them, as I myself have witnessed.

7. Such, Sire, are the greatness and goodness of the lands that I have discovered, and of which I have taken possession in your Majesty's name, under your royal standard ; and it may be proper here to mention the acts that I performed. In the first place, Sire, I raised a Cross, and set up a Church of our Lady of Loretto, in which twenty masses were said. I gained the jubilee conceded on the day of Pentecost, and formed a solemn procession on Corpus Christi Day, in which I dignified these lands by walking, preceded by the Most Holy Sacrament and the standard of your Majesty. Three field ensigns were also hoisted, and your royal arms were exhibited between two pillars. Furthermore, as a loyal vassal of your Majesty, I confide that your Majesty will immediately annex this great continent to your dominions, under the title of Australia of the Holy Spirit, to the greater glory of the same Lord that made it, and showed it

to me, and brought me to the presence of your Majesty, whence I am, with the same will that discovered it, infinitely desirous of being allowed the merit of establishing it.

8. I have a firm belief in the prudent counsel, greatness of soul, and Christian piety of your Majesty ; the abundant care you take to know with certainty what is necessary, the population of those lands already discovered, being the principal cause that should prevent their being left uncultivated. I hope, therefore, to be the means of the Lord our God being known, believed, adored, and served by them, and the devil vanquished, and, through the energy of the Roman Church, of preventing others from sowing false doctrines and of converting all the good things I have represented into greater evils, calling themselves lords of the Indies and ruining everything. I believe, also, that your Majesty will be well advised, that a loss so pernicious, whether arising from neglect or misfortune, is such that to remedy it, in the future, might cost millions of gold and thousands of men. Your Majesty then can, by means of a little silver spent in Peru, gain, at once, heaven, eternal fame, and that new world, with all that which I promise ; nor can any one complain that I petition your Majesty for the rewards due for so great and remarkable a discovery—a mercy of God reserved for your happy time. I beg then, Sire, that I may receive them together with my warrant. The vessels are prepared, but there is much to be done before they can be made ready to sail, very much both of a spiritual and temporal nature, and every hour lost never can be recalled.

If Christopher Columbus was so persevering under a mere belief that he had something to discover, I have grounds for being importunate with respect to that which I have seen and felt, and offer to achieve, conducting myself in all things reasonably and undertaking to give entire satisfaction.

Sire, this is a great work ; you can by it make mortal war to the demon, and there is no good that can be done equal to it, your Majesty being its protector.





**RELACION DE VN**  
memorial que ha presentado a su Ma  
gestad el Capitan Pedro Fernandez  
de Quir, sobre la poblacion y descu  
brimiento de la quarta parte del mun  
do, Austrialia incognita, su gran rique  
za y fertilidad: descubierta por el  
mismo Capitan.



Conllicenciadel Consejo Real de Pamplona, Impressa  
por Carlos de Labayen. Año 1610.

## S E Ñ O R



O el Capitan Pedro Fernandéz de Quir, digo q con este son ocho los memoriales que a V. M. he presentado, en razon de la població que se deve hazer en la tierra que V. M. mandó que se descubriese en la parte Australia incognita, sin hasta agora averse tomado conmigo resoluciones, ni dada respuesta alguna, ni esperanga q asegure mi despacho, aviendo catorze meses que elloy en esta Corte, y catorze años q trato esta causa sin sueldo.

Lo qual me viro apuntar a mi proverbo, sino solo el bien della, con la qual y con algunas contradicciones, he andado veynte mil leguas por tierra y por mar, y gastado toda mi hazienda, desacomodado mi persona, sufriendo tantas y tan terribles cosas que a mi mesmo se me hazen increíbles, y todo esto ha sido por no d samparar esta obra de tanta piedad y misericordia, en cuyo nombre y por todo el amor de Dios suplico a V. M. muy humildemente, sea servido de no permitirme, que de tantos y tan continuos trabajos y vigilias, y de vna tan notable y tan fundada perdia, no saque yo aquellos frutos que tanto deseo y pretendo, siendo como son de tanta honra y gloria de Dios, y servicio de V. M. y bienes innumerables, con duracion de quanto el mundo durare, y despues eternos.

1. La grandeza de las tierras nueuamente descubiertas, juzgado por lo que yo vi, y por lo que el Capitan Luys de Vaez de Torres Almirante de mi cargo, auiso a V. M. de buena razon su longitud es tanta, como la de toda Europa, Asia menor, y hasta el Caspio, y la Persia, con todas las Islas del Mediterraneo y Oceano, que en su contorno se le arriaman entrando las dos de Inglaterra, y Irlanda. A quella parte oculta es quarta de todo el globo, y tan capaz que puede azer en ella doblados Reynos y Provincias de todas aquellas de que V. M. al presente es señor, y esto sin auerzindar con Turcos, ni Moros, ni con otras de las naciones que suelen inquietar y perturbar las agenas. Todas las tierras villas e aldeas dentro la Torridazona, y ay parte dellas que toca a la Equinoctial, cuya latitud puede ser de noventa grados, y otras de pocos menos, y si siueben como prometen, aya tierras que sean Antipodas de lo mejor de la Africa, y de toda la Europa, y de lo demas de toda la Asia mayor. Advierto que pues las tierras que vi, en quinze grados son mejores q España, como luego se vera: y que las otras que en altura se opusieren, que deuen de ser en su tanto vn parayso terrenal.

2. La gente de aquellas tierras es mucha; sus colores son blancos, loros, mulatos, e Indios, y mezelas de vnos y de otros, los cabellos de los vnos son



son negros, crecidos y sueltos, los otros son frisados y crespos, y de otros  
bien rubios y delgados, cuyas diferencias son indicios de arádes, comen-  
cio y concusos, por la qual razon, y por la bondad de las tierras y por  
no tener artilleria ni otras becas de fuego con que matasse, y por que no  
labran minas de plata, y por otras muchas razones es de creer ser mu-  
chissima esta gente: a la qual no se le conoce arte may, o ni menci, ni uos  
ni fuerças, Rey ni ley, ni, son mas de vnos simples Gētiles, diuididos en  
parcialidades, y poro amigos entre si: sus armas son las ordinarias, ar-  
xos, y flechas sin yerua, y de moçanas, ballones, lanças y dardos de pa-  
lores gēte que cubre partes, es limpia, alegre, y racional, y tã rana con o  
lo he experimentado: por todo lo qual se deve esperar mediante la proq  
uidencia diuina, y medios suaues, que han de ser facilissimos de pacifica-  
car, dectrinar, y contentar, que son tres cosas bien necessarias, en los prin-  
cipios, para despues encaminarlas todas a aquellos tan santos fines quã  
to denen ser pretendidos en lo mas y en lo menos, con todas las veras de  
las veras. Las casas son de maderas cubiertas deliojos de palmas: vian de  
uillas de barro: tienen telares, trasmallos, y otras redes de la piedra mar  
mol, flautas, tambores y cucharas de palo embarnizadas: tienen Orot  
rios y entierros, y haciendas muy pequeñas en rrazon, cercadas, y empali-  
çadas. Aprovechanse mucho de las conchas de naçar, y dellas hazen gu-  
bias, escoplos, formonas, sierras, anzuelos, y pateras mayores y meno-  
res, que traen colgadas de los cuellos. Los lileños tienen sus embarca-  
ciones bien obradas y bastantes para nauegar de vnas tierras a otras, y  
todo junto es cierto indicio de vezindad de gente de mas policia, y no  
lo es menos castrar los puercos y los pollos.

3. El pan que tienen, son tres diferencias de rayzes de q̃ ay muy grand  
de suma, y se pasan sin trabajo, que no tienen ningun beneficio que asar  
las, y cozerlas, son gustosas, sanas y de buen sustento, y mucha dura, y las  
ay de vara de largo, y media de grueso: las frutas son muchas, y muy  
buenos platanos de seys generos, grande numero de abacaxys de qua-  
tro suertes, grandes obos, que es fruta casi del rancho y sober de me-  
lcatones: muchas nuezes de la tierra, y naranjas y limones que no los  
comen los ludios: y otra estremada y grande fruta y otras no menos  
buenas q̃ se vieron y comieron, con muchas y muy grandes cosas de llores  
y noticia de mançanas: ay infinitas palmas, de las quales se puede lo go  
sacar tuba, de que se haze vino, viagre, miel y sueros, y las palmas son  
muy buenas. Estas mismas palmas el truco q̃ dan son coger, quando estã  
verdes, sirven de cardos, y el meollo como naras, quando maduras es  
suficiente de comida y beuida en mar y tierra: quando viejos dan azet-  
re para

te para alumbrar, y curar tambien como con el balfamo, y para cernir, quando nuevo sus calcos son buenos vasos y frascos: los capullos son estopa para calefatar las Naos, y para hazer todos los cables y xarcias, y las cuerdas ordinarias, y de arcebuz. La mejor de las hojas se hazen velas para embarcaciones pequenas, y esteras finas, y petates con que se aserran y cubren casay, que se arman con los troncos que son derechos, y altos, y dellos se facen tablas y lenças, y otros generos de armas, y remos, con otras muchas cosas buenas para el seruicio ordinario. Y es de notar que estos palmares es viña, que todo el año se disfruta y se vendimia, y que no pide beneficio, y que así ni gaila dinero, ni tiempo. Las hortalizas que se vieron son calabagas, y grandes bledos y muchos, y verdolagas, y se tuvo noticia de habas. Las carnes son, muchos puercos mansos como los nuestros, y gallinas, y capones, y perdizes de la tierra, patos Reales, tortugas, palomas torcazes, y cabras que vio el otro Capitan, y los Indios nos dieron noticia de vacas, o de bufalos. Los pescados son muchos, pargos, pezes reyes, lizas, lenguados, salomonetes, meros, sardinas, macaús, calanes, pampanos, sardinas, rayas, palometas, chitas viejas, anguillas, pezes, puercos, chapines, rubias, almexas, camarones, y otros generos de que no me acuerdo el nombre, y deue de auer muchos mas, pues todos los referidos se pescaron junto a las naos. Y si bien se considera lo escrito, hallarse ha, que demas y tantos y tan buenos bastimentos, se puede gozar luego grandes y muchos regales, entrando en ellos maçapanes, conseruas de muchas suertes, y esto sin lleuarle nada de fuera. Y que para matalotages, de mas de lo referido, no faltará muchos ni grandes pernilles de tocino, ni botijas de mantecas, y lo demas que de grandes puercos se saca, sin saltar agro, ni especies. Es de advertir, que muchos de los dichos generos son semejantes a los nuestros, y que puede auer muchos mas, y que en esto muestra la tierra ser muy propia para criar todas las otras cosas que produce la Europa.

4 Las riquezas son plata y perlas que yo vi, y oro que vio el otro Capitan, como dize en su relacion, que son los tres generos mas ricos que naturaleza ha criado, ay muchissima nuez de especia, maza, pimienta, y gengibre que auemos visto los dos: ay noticia de canela, y puede ser auer caño, pues ay las otras especies, y mas tambien, porque son aquellas tierras paralelas, con poquita diferencia de Terrenate y Bachan, ay mas allí, con que se puede criar seda, hazer pira, açucar, añir, ay buen buano, y infinitas maderas para poder fabricar todas quantas Naos se quisieren con todas sus velas y jarcias de tres generos, el vno parecido a nuestro cañamo. Y con el azeyte de los cocos se puede hazer la galagala con

en que se escufa breu, y se vió cierta resina, de que los Indios se aproue-  
chan para brear sus Piraguas, y pues ay cabras, y noticia de vacas, aua  
cordobanes, corambre, y sebo y carne en abundancia, y de abeja, q se ha  
visto, tambien aua miel y cera, y demas de todas estas riquezas assegu-  
ran de otras muchas noticias, y el sitio y disposici6n de las tierras, q jun-  
tadas con las muchas q darà la industria, aujendo como ay tanto apare-  
jo, asì de las cosas fuyas, como para criarse las nuestras que pretendi  
luego llevar, con mas todas las otras mejores, y mas preuechosas que  
se crian en el Piru, y en la nueva España, parece que todo junto harà  
tan rica la tierra, que sola ella por si baste a sustentarse, y juntamente a  
la America, y a engrádecér y enriquecer a España, de tal manera como  
yo lo mostrare, si soy de otros ayudado para la execucion. Y en raxon  
de lo visto por ser orillas del mar, digo señor que se deuen de esperar  
del coraç6n de la tierra tantas y tales grandezas y riquezas, y cosas bue-  
nas, quales van siendo las nuestras. Es de aduertir, que mi intento prin-  
cipal fue solo buscar tan gran tierra como hallè, y que por mis enfer-  
medades, y otras causas que callo, no pude ver quanto quise, ni todo  
quanto desee, se pudo ver en vn mes, teniendo doze vn año, que mues-  
tran las calidades, y los frutos que producen todas las tierras criadas,  
y que los Indios de aquellas tierras no deuen de ser juzgados c6n nue-  
stras necesidades, sabores, codicias, y estimacion de las cosas, sino por  
hombres que pretendan con el menos trabajo que pueden passar, co-  
mo passan las vidas sin cansarse en lo demas que nos cansamos.

5 La comodidad y gustosa vida sera tanta quanta se ve en vn tan cul-  
tiuada, alegre y fresca tierra, negra y grassa, y de grande migajon, con  
barriles para luego poder hazer casa, ladrillo y tejas, y lo demas que  
dello se haze: y en aquellas tantas y tan cerca canteras de piedras, mar-  
moles, y tocas para poderse levantar santuosos y curiosos edificios, y  
en aquellas tãtas y tan a proposito maderas para todos menesteres, y en  
aquel sitio de llanos, valles, lomas, quebradas, y fierras altas, y redobla-  
das, y en aquellos rios churrillos, y manantiales, adonde comodamente  
puede auer en cantidad molinos, azeñas, trapiches, y otros ingenios de  
agua, y en los effenos salinas, y en aquellos cañamerales, testigos de la fer-  
tilidad de la tierra, cuyos cañutos ay de cinco y seys palmos, y menos,  
y el fruto a proporcion, el canto delgado y duro, y lisa la raza y en tan  
buenos pedernales como los ay en Madrid. La bahia de San Felipe y San-  
tiago tiene veynete leguas de orilla, es toda limpia y libre para poder en-  
trar de dia y de noche, tiene a su redonda muchas poblaciones, y en  
ellas y muy lexos se vey de dia muchos humos, y de noche muchos fue-  
gos: su puerto de la Veracruz es tan copaz, que puede caber en el mas  
de mil

En el año 1535: su Fondeo es limpio y de arena negra, no se ha visto brómido.  
 Puede surgir en las brazas que quisieren, de quarenta hasta media en-  
 tre dos rios, el vno tan grande como Guadalquivir en Sevilla, con barra-  
 de mas de dos brazas, por donde pueden entrar buenas fragatas y pata-  
 chos, en el otro entravan francas nuestras barcas, y dellas se cogia el a-  
 gua, que es lindissima en qualquier parte de las muchas que la ay. El  
 estuario o arcedero es vna playa de tres leguas, y lo mas della vn guijar-  
 ral negro, menudo y pesado, bonissimo para lastrar los navios. La pla-  
 ya por no tener rnynas ni quiebras, y estar verdes las yervas de su orilla,  
 se entendio no ser batida de mares, y porque los arboles que tiene esta-  
 ban todos derechos y sin açotes ni desgages, se juzgò desto no auer gran-  
 des temporales. Este puerto demas de ser tan ayroso, tiene otra grande  
 existencia para lo que es recreacion, que desde que rompia el alua, se  
 oya por todo el cercano bosque vna muy grande harmonia de villares  
 de diuersos pajaros, algunos al parecer ruy señores, mirias calandrias y  
 sirgueros, y infinitas golondrinas, periquitas, y vn papagayo que se  
 vio, y sin esto muchos otros generos de aues, y hasta chillar las chichas,  
 ran y los grillos: y se gozaua las mañanas todas y tardes de suaves olo-  
 res, despedidos de tantos generos de flores, entrando en el el de açar-  
 har y aluahaça, y por todos ellos, y por otros buenos efectos, se juzgò  
 ser alli clemente el cielo, y que guarda su orden naturaleza. A este puer-  
 to y su vahia los hazen mas excelentes la cercania de tantas y tan bue-  
 nas islas, en especial de siete que boxéan dozienas leguas, la vna tiene  
 cinquenta y dista doze, es muy fertil y poblada: y en suma digo señor,  
 que en esta vahia y puerto de quinze grados y vn tercio de eleuacion  
 de polo Antartico, se puede luego edificar vna muy grande y populosa  
 ciudad, y que la gente que la habitare gozara de todas las riquezas y co-  
 modidades apuntadas, y de las que no puede mostrar mi poco ingenio,  
 y de las que el tiempo mostrara, y que se pueden comunicar con las Pro-  
 uincias de Chile, Peru, Panama, Nicaragua, Guatemala, nueva España,  
 Terrenat y Filipinas, de todas las quales tierras V.M. es señor, y que si  
 V.M. lo fuere de estas otras que ofrezco, las tengo por tan importantes,  
 que demas de ter como llaves de todas las referidas, entiendo vendran  
 a ser en lo que estrato de cosas curiosas y prouechosas, dexo grandezas,  
 otras Chinas y Japones, y mas prouincias de aquella costa de la Asia,  
 con sus islas, y quedo corto segun lo que siento, y lo puedo mostrar en  
 junta de Mathematicos, ni me alargo en dezir que pueden luego acomodar  
 y sustentar dozienos mil Españoles. En suma aquel señor es el mun-  
 do, de que España va siendo el centro, y en lo que es cuerpo es la vna, y  
 notase bien este punto.

**6** El templeamento y bondad del ayre es señorial, qual se ve en co-  
do lo dicho, y en que siendo los nuestros todos estrangeros, ningun ca-  
yo enfermo con tan ordinario trabajar, sudar, y mojarse, sin guardarse  
de buen agua en ayunas, ni de comer todo quanto la tierra cria, ni del  
sereno, Luna, y Sol, que no era muy ardiente de día, y de medio noche  
abaxo pedía, y se sufría muy bien ropa de lana, y con que los naturales  
en comun son corpulentos, y de grâdes fuerças, y algunos dellos muy vie-  
jos, y con que viuen en casas térreras, que es grande indicio de la mucha  
sanidad, porque a ser la tierra enferma las leuantarian del suelo, como  
lo hazen en Filipinas, y en otras partes que yo vi, y con que el pescado,  
y la carne durauan sanos, por salar dos y mas dias: y con que las fru-  
tas que de allí se trañeron, como se puede ver en dos que aquí tengo, es-  
tan sanísimas, con ser cogidas de los arboles sin sazón, y como auerle  
visto arenales, ningun genero de cardones ni arboles espinosos, ni que  
tengan rayzes sobre la tierra, ni mangianeres anegadizos, ni pantanos,  
ni nieue en las alras sierras, ni cocodrillos en los ríos, ni en las montañas  
sabadifas ponçoñosas, ni hormigas, que suelen ser muy dañosas en las ca-  
sas y en los frutos, ni niguas ni garrápatas, ni mosquitos, que es esta vna  
excelencia sobre todas: las excelencias para nuestra pretension, y tan dig-  
na de estimarse, que ay muchas tierras en las Indias, que por solo estas  
plagas no se pueden habitar, y otras adonde se padece tanto por ellas,  
quanto yo soy buen testigo.

**7** Estas son señoriales grandezas y bondad de las tierras que descubri,  
de las quales tome la posescion en nombre de V.M. debaxo de vntro  
estandarte Real, y así lo dicen los autos que aquí tengo. Así señor lo  
primero se leuó vna Cruz, y se armó Iglesia de nuestra Señora d. Lo-  
reto, se dixeron veynte Missas, se ganó el jubileo concedido al día de  
Pentecostes, y se hizo vna solez de procesion el día de Corpus Christi.  
En suma el santísimo Sacramêto siendo su guía el estandarte de V.M.  
passó y honró aquellas ocultas tierras, adonde en arboles tres banderas  
de campo, y en las detodas mostró las dos columnas al lado de vuestras  
armas Reales, con que puedo dezir con razon en lo que es parte aquí se  
acabó Plus Ultra, y en lo que es continente mas adelante y atras, y todo  
esto y lo demás ha sido como al vasselloy que soy de V. M. y para que  
V.M. pueda añadir luego, porque siene esta grandeza el título de la An-  
stia del Espíritu Santo, para mas gloria del mismo Señor que me lle-  
uó y me la mostró, y me traxo a la presencia de V.M. adonde estoy con  
la misma voluntad que si me pusiere en esta caula que crisy por su alte-  
za, y todo merecer, la amo y la quiero infinitos.

8. Bien creo del prudente consejo, grandeza de animo, y piedad Christiana de V. M. el mucho, cuyo es lo que dize, saber tan cierto como conueniene, la poblacion de aquellas tierras ya descubiertas, siendo la causa mas principal, que deue obligar a no las dexar desiertas, ser este el medio, para que en todas ellas, por Dios nuestro Señor conocido, creydo, y adorado, y seruido, siendo alli tanto el demonio, y mas tambien porque ha de ser la puerta, por donde a tantas gentes del cargo de V. M. les ha de entrar todo su bien y remedio, y los muchos mas cuydados que daria, si a ellas fuessem enenigos de la Iglesia Romana, a sembrar sus falsas doctrinas, y conuertir todos los bienes que represento, en males mayores, y llamarse señores de Indias, y arruynarlas todas. Tambien creo que V. M. estará muy advertido, que vn daño tan pernicioso, quanto lo es el que suena, o otro qualquier desman, si lo huiniere al presente o adelante, que ha de costar millones de oro, y millares de hombres el dudofo remedio del. Gane V. M. pues puede con poca pata gastada en el Piru por vna vez ganar el cielo la fama eterna, y aquel nuevo mundo con todo lo que promete: y pues no ay quien a V. M. pida las albricias de vna tan grande y señalada merced de Dios, guardada para vuestro felice tiempo, yo señor las pido, y por ellas mi despacho, que estan los galeones prestos, y es mucho lo que tengo que andar, que aprestar, y que hazer, y muchissimo lo espiritual y temporal. que cada hora se pierda, que jamas se ha de cobrar.

Si a Christoual Colon sus solicitudes le hizieron porfiado, a mi haze tan importuna lo que vi, y lo que palpé, y lo que ofrezco: para la qual mande V. M. que de tantos meos, quantos ay, se de vno, para que pueda conseguir lo propuesto, advirtiendo que en todo me hallaran muy reducido a la razon, y dare en todo satisfacion.

Señor grande obra es esta, pues el demonio le haze tan mortal guerra, y no es bien que pueda tanto, siendo V. M. el defensor della.

FIN.

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